

I am a member of the committee that oversees our local PEG public access television station and a video producer of local interest programming. I am the chairman of the Cable TV Advisory Committee that is currently trying (your efforts aren't making it any easier) to negotiate and renew a favorable cable TV franchise contract with Charter Communications. I teach technology courses, including video production at the local high school and have broadcast the video work of over 300 students. Many of my students have joined the local public access station and become producers of local TV. Several have gone on to get jobs for NBC, MTV, and PBS.

I am very much in favor of Telco-cable competition, but cannot support these recent proposals to do away with local video franchise agreements, for among many reasons, they do not protect PEG channels and keep local government whole. They clearly favor the big telecommunications companies, hinder our existing cable providers, and cut a big hole in our towns' ability to communicate with the population.

Our public access station is the only place you can see Town Meetings, Selectman's meetings and School Committee meetings, and many other televised local gatherings. We provide a platform for a huge variety of local opinions that no other station would broadcast to us.

When the bridge at one end of town is shut, or God-forbid if the big ice cream plant in town crammed with ammonia gas and who knows what else, or that enormous LNG tank I can see from my house starts to burn, will the Big-City stations pull all programming and show continuous emergency instructions for our little suburb like my public access stations will? Or will they just send out the Action News Team later to report on our burnt remains?

**Why do you want to take this all away from me, my students, and my community?**

**Let the telephone companies, and anyone else who wants to, come to us with a reasonable proposal that gives the people of this town great services at great prices, maintains or increases PEG support, and allows us the control we deserve over our own right of ways . . . and you will see just how level the playing field can get!**

**Richard C. Scott  
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Wilbraham, Massachusetts**

**Wilbraham Public Access Television**